

Message Text

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R 202103Z FEB 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
TREASURY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
USDEL JEC PARIS
INFO USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM
CINCPAC
COGARD
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH
XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 20 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES SAY CODEL VISIT TO SVN AND CAMBODIA
HAS BEEN POSTPONED BECAUSE OF PRESSURE OF LEGISLATIVE
ACTIVITY (MORNING RADIO REPORTS).
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GKR MIL SOURCES SAY US HAS TRIPLED PP AIRLIFT. REBEL
GUNNERS ROCKETED AIRPORT TWICE WEDNESDAY IN ATTEMPT
TO HALT AIRLIFT. ONE ROCKET MISSED WORLD AIRWAYS
DC-8 BY 50 YDS, HIT POLICE POST AND KILLED FIVE (UPI,

CHITRIB). INSURGENTS FIRED 14 ROCKETS INTO POCHENTONG AIRPORT AND NEARBY MARKET, KILLED FOUR (AP, SUN).

FANK REPORTS MIL SITUATION AROUND NEAK LUONG CONTINUES DETERIORATE, WITH SEVEN ENEMY GROUND PROBES (UPI, CHITRIB; AP, NYT). INSURGENTS SHELL TOWN FOR SECOND DAY AND CONTINUE PROBES OF SE DEFENSES (AP, SUN). ON LOWER MEKONG, LAST REPORTS HAD TWO SMALL GKR POCKETS (REMNANTS OF LARGER FORCE THAT LAUNCHED UNSUCCESSFUL OPERATION TO OPEN RIVER) HOLDING OUT AGAINST HEAVY PRESSURE 40 MILES SE OF PP, ACCORDING MIL SOURCES.

GKR HAS TEMPORARILY ABANDONED ATTEMPTS TO REOPEN MEKONG (AP, SUN).

HEAVY FIGHTING BROKE OUT 8 MILES NORTH OF PP WHERE REBELS ATTACKED GKR LINES AND MAIN FUEL STORAGE DEPOT. REBELS OVERRAN FANK 7TH DIV HQ 15 MILES NW OF PP, ACCORDING MIL SOURCES (UPI, CHITRIB). FIELD REPORTS SAY FANK PUSHED REBELS BACK HALF-MILE NEAR 7TH DIV HQ (AP, SUN). GKR COMMAND SAYS TROOPS STILL TRYING RETAKE RICE-DEPOT TOWN 150 MILES NW OF PP (AP, NYT).

WP'S GREENWAY IN PP WRITES OF WORSENING GKR SITUATION ON MEKONG (EXCERPTED IN FEB 20 USIA WIRELESS FILE).

SVN MIL COMMAND REPORTS 17 NVA, 5 ARVN KIA IN CLASHES ABOVE AND BELOW DA NANG (UPI, CHITRIB); ALSO REPORTS SHELLING OF GOVT POSITIONS SW OF DA NANG AND 55 MILES WEST OF SAIGON, WITH 5 KIA (WP).

NYT'S BUTTERFIELD IN PLEIKU CONTENTS COMMUNIST MOVES, INCLUDING BUILDING OWN ROADS AND CUTTING GVN'S, COULD PERIL GVN POSITION IN HIGHLANDS (EXCERPTED IN FEB 20 USIA WIRELESS FILE).

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MOBIL AND SHELL REPORT MIXED RESULTS IN WELLS OFF SVN. MOBIL SAYS TESTS "ENCOURAGING" IN WELL 120 MILES SE OF SAIGON, BUT FURTHER CHECKING NEEDED TO DETERMINE LOMMERCIAL POTENTIAL. SHELL STATED ABANDONING THIRD TEST WELL OFF COAST BECAUSE PRODUCTION TOO LOW; RIG TO BE MOVED TO NEXT LOCATION IN SERIES TO BE DRILLED AND EVALUATED (WSJ).

CDN'S TAMARKIN IN SAIGON (2/12) WRITES VIGNETTES ILLUSTRATING POVERTY OF THIS YR'S TET WHEN HARD-PRESSED PEOPLE UNWILLING TO SPEND FREELY AS IN PAST. SEES WAR SEEPING INTO SAIGON, WITH MORE BEGGERS, LEPERS, ORPHANS AND CRIPPLED VETS ON STREETS. FINDS PEOPLE WEARY OF HOW WAR GOING AS NVA OFFENSIVE STEPS UP.

2. JAPAN

CSM REPORTS ASIAN DIPLOMATS IN LONDON SAYING PRES FORD MAY EXPAND HIS JOURNEY TO CHINA NEXT FALL WITH STATE VISITS "TO AT LEAST THREE OTHER EASTERN COUNTRIES." FORD HAS ACCEPTED INVITATIONS TO VISIT INDIA, PAKISTAN, IRAN, AND POSSIBLY JAPAN.

JAL DENIED PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION AGAINST AIM IN NY FEDERAL COURT WEDNESDAY; JUDGE ALSO RESCINDED TEMPORARY

RESTRAINING ORDER AGAINST GROUND CREW STRIKES IN FIVE CITIES, IN DISPUTE OVER MAINTENANCE WORK CONTRACTED OUT BY AIRLINE (NYT).

LAT'S JAMESON IN TOKYO (2/19) SAYS US "WARNED" JAPAN TUESDAY NOT TO "GO IT ALONE" IN SEEKING CHEAP OIL AT EXPENSE OF OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS. EMBASSY ECON MIN CULBERT, IN SPEECH TO JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY, SEEMINGLY AIMED AT MIYAZAWA CRITICISM OF HAK PROPOSAL, SAID US MIGHT FIX PENALTIES ON IMPORTS FROM NATION THAT REFUSES TO SUPPORT OIL FLOOR PRICE; ALSO SAID JAPAN WOULD BE FORCED TO REVALUE YEN TO ELIMINATE LARGE TRADE SURPLUS THAT COULD RESULT FROM CHEAP OIL ADVANTAGE -- OR ELSE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS "WOULD HAVE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES" AGAINST IMPORTS UNDERPRICED
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ON BASIS OF LOWER ENERGY COSTS. QUOTES HIGH MOFA SOURCE SAYING HE "WOULD HATE TO CALL (CULBERT STATEMENT) A THREAT," BUT IT CERTAINLY "STRONG WARNING."

JAMESON ALSO NOTES (2/19) JAPAN RECYCLING OIL DOLLARS IN OWN OLD-FASHIONED WAY -- BY MORE THAN DOUBLING EXPORTS TO ME AND AFRICA LAST YEAR TO 3.7 BILLION DOLS, AND BY 61 PERCENT TO INDONESIA TO 1.5 BILLION DOLS. CITES BANKING SOURCE THAT ARABS RECYCLED ALMOST TWO BILLION DOLS INTO JAPAN, IN FORM OF BILLION DOL SAUDI LOAN AND DEPOSITS IN EUROPEAN BRANCHES OF JAPANESE BANKS. FINDS LITTLE FEAR OF ARAB OIL MONEY BECAUSE LAW LIMITS AMOUNT OF STOCK ALL FOREIGN INTERESTS MAY HOLD IN ONE COMPANY TO 25 PERCENT, AND 10 PERCENT BY SINGLE INVESTOR. NOTES EXCEPTIONS SUBJECT TO GOJ APPROVAL, WHICH GIVEN ONLY SPARINGLY IN PAST.

SUN'S SEIDEN IN TOKYO NOTES ELDERLY WOMEN BEGIN "CAMP-OUT" IN FRONT OF CITY HALL TO PERSUADE GOV MINOBE RUN FOR RE-ELECTION; COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST PARTY OFFICIALS, SPLIT BY BURAKUMIN OUTCAST ISSUE, "ARGUE BITTERLY" AND "NEGOTIATE FRANTICALLY" TO ACHIEVE SAME GOAL.

REUTER'S NAKAMIKADO IN TOKYO (2/19) OBSERVES COMMUNIST/
SOCIALIST SPLIT OVER BURAKUMIN ALREADY RESP
NSIBLE
FOR TWO OF SEVEN STRAIGHT WINS BY LDP IN LOCAL ELECTIONS;
CITES SPECULATION MIKI, DESPITE DENIALS, MAY CALL EARLY
GENERAL ELECTION TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SITUATION.

JOC'S CULLISON IN TOKYO SAYS INTL OIL TRADING CO
SIGNS CONTRACT IN PEKING TUESDAY TO IMPORT 5.4 MILLION
TONS ON ANNUAL BASIS, AT 12.10 DOLS/BBL, FOB. NOTES

JAPAN-CHINA
IL IMPORT COUNCIL SAID READY TO IMPORT
ANOTHER .5 MILLION TONS. CHINA ACCEPTED 30-DAY
IMPORT USANCE, AND AGREED TO PAY DAMAGES FOR POLLUTION
FROM OIL SPILLS BY OWN TANKERS, ACCEPT SETTLEMENT IN
US DOLS.
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CULLISON ALSO NOTES BANK OF JAPAN GOV MORINAGA SAID
WEDNESDAY BANKS NEED NOT FEAR HIGH INTEREST ON SHORT-
TERM LOANS WILL INDUCE LARGE FLOW OF FOREIGN CAPITAL
INTO JAPANESE MARKET, DESPITE LOWER RATES IN US, UK,
FRG.

LAT'S CHRISS IN HOUSTON (2/19) REPORTS THREE US
EMPLOYEES HAVE FILED UNPRECEDENTED 500,000 DOL DAMAGE
SUIT AGAINST EMPLOYER, C. ITOH, FOR VIOLATING CIVIL
RIGHTS; DISCRIMINATION ALLEGED BECAUSE FIRM PAYS
JAPANESE EMPLOYEES 20 PERCENT MORE SALARY FOR SAME
WORK, LARGER BONUS, MORE FRINGES AND PROMOTIONS, AND
EXCLUDES AMERICANS FROM "IMPORTANT NIGHT BUSINESS
MEETINGS." NOTES C. ITOH OFFICIALS AND ATTORNEYS
DECLINE COMMENT.

NYDN'S ISABEL FORGANG SAYS NEW YORKERS IN FOR "DUAL
TREAT" AT PAIR OF UNUSUAL ART JAPANESE ART SHOWS --
SUTSUMU, ART OF JAPANESE PACKAGING, AT JAPAN HOUSE,
AND MOMOYAMA: JAPANESE ART IN AGL OF GRANDEUR, AT
METROPOLITAN MUSEUM.

3. CHINA

BOSTON HA (FEB 14) ITEM REPORTS ILLICHEV'S ARRIVAL
IN PEKING LEADS SOME DOS ANALYSTS TO BELIEVE KREMLIN
MAY BE MAKING MAJOR NEW EFFORT TO RESOLVE SINO-SOVIET
BORDER DISPUTE. DOS OFFICIALS BELIEVE PRC DECISION
TO RELEASE SOVIET COPER CREW WOULD INDICATE PEKING'S
SERIOUS INTEREST IN MAKING PROGRESS WITH SOVIET.
WASHINGTON ANALYSTS ALSO NOTE TALKS ARE RESUMING AT
TIME WHEN PEKING IS PUBLICLY ATTACKING US-SOVIET

DETENTE AND ONLY MONTHS BEFORE SCHEDULED US-SOVIET
AND PRC-US SUMMITS.

4. THAILAND

RTG FORCES SWEEP THROUGH COMMUNIST BASE AREA IN CHIANG
RAI PROVINCE, 600 MILES NORTH OF BANGKOK, ACCORDING
POLICE, MIL SOURCES; REPORT 9 KIA, 40 WIA IN FIRST
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THREE DAYS, TOLL EXPECTED INCREASE (WP).

5. INDONESIA

ITT ANNOUNCES BELGIAN, US SUBSIDIARIES SIGN CONTRACTS
WORTH 160 MILLION DOLS TO SUPPLY TELECOMM EQUIPMENT,
SERVICES TO INDONESIA, FINANCED BY SOCIETE GENERALE
DE BANQUE MEDIUM-TERM CREDIT TO GOI (WSJ).

US EXIM BANK APPROVES 9.8 MILLION DOL LOAN TO GOI,
TO BUY THREE DREDGES FROM ELLICOTT MACHINE, TO DEEPEN
HARBORS AND SHIPPING LANES.

6. GENERAL

NYT'S FINNEY REVIEWS FIRST FULL PUBLIC LISTING BY D
D
OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACTS TO TRAIN MILITARY
PERSONNEL IN 34 FOREIGN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING AUSTRALIA,
CAMBODIA, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, ROK, RVN, ROC, HAILAND
(REPORTED USIA WIRELESS FILE 2/20).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

7. INDOCHINA

KEVIN PHILLIPS (BOST H-A 2/14) SEES NEW ISOLATIONISM
SIGNALLED BY SEN MCCLURE, WHOSE ATTACKS ON
"VIETNAM DOVES, MIDDLE EAST HAWKS" SEEM OF NATIONALISTIC,
ANTI-EASTERN ESTABLISHMENT TYPE RATHER THAN LEFTIST
ANTI-WAR BEHAVIOR OF JANE FONDA, MCGOVERN AND RAMSEY
CLARK. LIBERAL ISOLATIONISM HAS DOMINATED SINCE
ANTI-VN REACTION OF MID-60S; TIDE MAY BE TURNING
TOWARD "RIGHT-WING" ISOLATIONISM. MCCLURE SAYS
TRANSITION FROM SEA DOVE TO ME HAWK IS DISTASTEFUL
AND HYPOCRITICAL, AND WONDERS WHETHER PROPONENTS OF ME
WAR TO SECURE OIL SUPPLIES ARE SAYING WAR IN SVN
WOULD HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED IF ONLY US HAD TAKEN OVER
RICE CROP AND EXPORTED IT TO NEEDY AMERICANS?

GARRY WILLS (S-N 2/19) QUOTES "VOICE ON THE RIGHT"
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JAMES BURNHAM THAT US "NO-POLICY" IN VN AND CAMBODIA GRUDGINGLY PROVIDES ENOUGH SUPPORT TO KEEP THEM HANGING ON BUT NOT TO SETTLE THINGS; SO, "IT WOULD SEEM TO MAKE MORE SENSE TO GET OUT ALTOGETHER." WILLS SAYS WE DON'T BECAUSE HAK NOT SURE "DECENT INTERVAL" HAS EXTENDED LONG ENOUGH. SAYS HAK JUST ADDED LONGER FUSE TO EXPLOSIVE SITUATION SO US COULD GET AWAY AND "LOOK GOOD." TIME BOUGHT WITH LIVES, SO "INTERVAL" MORE CALCULATED AFFRONT TO MORALITY THAN EARLIER MIL COMMITMENT. THIS KIND OF "PEACE" MORE SINFUL THAN WAR, IS MOST "INDECENT INTERVAL" IN OUR HISTORY.

EVANS/NOVAK (PHINQ 2/19) SEE MAJOR BATTLE, LIKELY WITHIN MONTH, SHAPING UP FOR CONTROL OF TAY NINH AND GVN WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PREVENT "IRREMEDIAL DISASTER" OF LOSS. HANOI'S OPPORTUNISTIC MIL STRATEGY LINKED WITH "PASSION" IN CONGRESS TO BE DONE WITH VN.

LEWIS (NYT) SEES SCENARIO OF SCHEDULED CODEL TO SVN AND CAMBODIA CALLING FOR GROUP TO BE PERSUADED ALL WILL BE WELL IN INDOCHINA WITH LITTLE MORE US AID, LITTLE MORE INVOLVEMENT. FINDS "UNSCHEDULED DRAMA" DEVELOPING OVER TRIP, SINCE REP HARKIN SAID HE WOULD BRING DON LUCE ALONG AS STAFF AIDE AND INTERPRETER. NOTES DOS MADE NO FORMAL OBJECTION TO LUCE, BUT ASST SECY HABIB MADE DISPLEASURE CLEAR, CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICANS ON DELEGATION PROTESTED, AND ISSUE UNRESOLVED SO FAR. "LUDICROUS" THA GROWN MEN SHOULD SO FEAR "VOICE OTHER THAN THEIR OWN"; ZEALOTS OF US POLICY ON VN WANT ,O LIMIT ACCESS BECAUSE THEY FEAR TRUTH.

OPINES THAT RESPECT FOR LAW IS ALSO CASUALTY OF OFFICIAL OBSESSION WITH VN: US CONTRACT AIRLIFT TO PP VIOLATES 1973 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT, BASED ON DETAILS PROVIDED BY AP BANGKOK AND NYTJJS SCHANBERG. MENTIONS LAWSUIT FILED IN BOSTON DISTRICT COURT CHALLENGES AIRLIFT AS MIL OPERATION IN VIOLATION OF 1973 STATUTE. WONDERS WHY LAWSUIT NEEDED TO MAKE USG OFFICIALS COMPLY WITH LAW. OBSESSION WITH INDOCHINA HAS DONE TERRIBLE THINGS TO STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL US BEHAVIOR, WITH MEN "OTHERWISE COMMITTED UNCLASSIFIED

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TO HONOR AND LAW" INURED TO CHEATING AND SUPPRESSING TRUTH.

8. KOREA

S-N (2/19) WELCOMES PARK'S "DE-ESCALATION OF HIS WAR

AGAINST DISSIDENT CITIZENS," WHICH "SHOULD BE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED" BY US. CALLS RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS "(9?)3 & 3 5743" TOWARD CONCILIATION, BUT NOT YET KNOWN WHETHER RELAXATION IS "DURABLE CHANGE" FOR BETTER, OR WILL LAST ONLY SO LONG AS OPPONENTS REMAIN SILENT. SUGGESTS FURTHER RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY WOULD HELP SK RETAIN PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT IT NEEDS TO ASSURE CONTINUED US AID, AND US FORCES ALONG TRUCE LINE.

9. JAPAN

LAT'S JAMESON IN TOKYO (2/16) PERCEIVES FIRST POST-

WAR DECLINE IN GNP WREAKING FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN JAPAN'S ECONOMY, BUT OUTLINE DIM. CITES JAPAN INDUSTRIAL BANK ADVISOR TAKASHI HOSOMI THAT CURRENT DIFFICULTIES WILL SHAPE NEW CONSENSUS LEADING TO "SECOND INTERNATIONALIZATION" OF INDUSTRY, WHICH JAMESON SAYS SEEMS TO POINT TO PERMANENT DIVERSIFICATION OF EXPORTS, PRICING BASED MORE ON COST THAN IN PAST, NEW FLUIDITY IN LABOR MARKET, ACCEPTANCE OF SLOWER GROWTH, AND RENEWED INTEREST IN OVERSEAS INVESTMENT. ALSO CITES HOSOMI PREDICTION EXPORTS CANNOT CONTINUE GROW AT CURRENT RATE TO SERVE AS BASIS FOR DOMESTIC GROWTH, SINCE "ADJUSTMENT OF EXCHANGE RATES" IN FLOATING MARKET WOULD MAKE YEN MORE EXPENSIVE, THUS REDUCE ABILITY OF IMPORTERS TO PAY FOR JAPANESE GOODS.

10. PHILIPPINES

AP'S ZEITLIN IN PIGEAWAYAN (WP 2/16) DESCRIBES PHIL ARMY CAMPAIGN AGAINST MORO REBELS IN MINDANAO, WHERE TROOPS FORCED TO RELY ON 20-YEAR OLD MAPS WHILE LOCAL GUERRILLAS KNOW LOCAL TERRAIN AND MELT AWAY INTO UNCLASSIFIED

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HIDING OR SPRING OUT FOR AMBUSH AT WILL. SAYS MANY TROOPS, ALL OF WHOM CHRISTIAN NORTHERNERS, SEEING MOSLEMS FOR FIRST TIME. CITES MIL SOURCES THAT 33 OF ARMY'S 37 BNS ARE NOW IN MINDANAO, MOST OF WHICH ORGANIZED FROM DRAFTEES SINCE MARTIAL LAW IMPOSED IN 1972.

NOTES MOST PHILS, UNDER MARTIAL LAW NEWS BLACKOUT, HARDLY AWARE OF SCALE OF WAR UNTIL NOTIFIED THAT RELATIVE KIA. NO CASUALTY TOTALS ANNOUNCED BY GOP, BUT CITES UNPUBLISHED INTELL REPORTS THAT GOVT KIA NOW EXCEEDS 500, AND RC PRIESTS IN JOLO SAY THEY GIVE LAST RITES TO AVERAGE OF 3 GOVT KIA PER DAY.

CITES EXPERIENCED OFFICERS' CLAIM NEW MEN POORLY

DISCIPLINED, AND CIVILIAN COMPLAINTS DRUNKEN SOLDIERS
FIRE WEAPONS INDISCRIMINATLY IN TOWN. MEN WELL PAID
AT 56 DOLS/MONTH IN LAND WHERE ANNUAL PER CAPITA
INCOME ONLY 240 DOLS; BUT, SINCE FIELD KITCHENS FOR
EM RARE, SAYS TROOPS FORAGE OWN FOOD IN FIELD.

11. AUSTRALIA

S-N (2/15) WELCOMES SIGNS ALP PUTTING PRACTICAL
ECONOMICS AHEAD OF IDEOLOGY, AND RECOGNIZES
IMPORTANCE OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN PROVIDING JOBS
IN MIXED ECONOMY. BUT CALLS LATEST GOA STEP INTENDED
TO HELP BUSINESS AND LABOR -- QUOTAS ON FOREIGN
TO HELP BUSINESS AND LABOR -- QUOTAS ON FOREIGN
WHITLAM MANDATE RUNS TO DEC, UNLESS OPPOSITION
FORCES ELECTIONS SOONER, AND SUGGESTS ALL AUSSIES
MIGHT BENEFIT FROM MODERATION OF EXTREMES TO
PRODUCE GOVT MORE INTERESTED IN KEEPING OLD TIES,
PARTICULARLY WITH US, AND MAKING RELATIVELY FREE
ECONOMY THRIVE. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED BUDAPEST.

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BIEN HOA
CAN THO
DANANG

HONG KONG
NHA TRANG
JEC PARIS INFO USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM
CINCPAC
COGARD
BUDAPEST BY POUCH
XMT SUVA
RANGOON

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